

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of :
ITAGAKI, et al. : Expected Group Art Unit: 2623
Rule 53(b) Divisional of :
Serial No: 09/731,484, : Expected Examiner: J. Wu
Filed: December 8, 2000 :
Filed: Concurrently Herewith :
For: IMAGE ENCODING/DECODING METHOD, APPARATUS THEREOF AND
RECORDING MEDIUM IN WHICH PROGRAM THEREFOR IS RECORDED

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

January 21, 2004

Sir:

This preliminary amendment is directed to the accompanying 37 CFR 1.53(b) application, which is a divisional of the above referenced application. Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification

Amendments to the Claims

Amendment to the Abstract

Remarks are included following the amendments